

Amendment
Serial No. 09/836,096

Docket No. PHFR 000041

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a plurality set of transcoding channels (~~TC[1] to TC[n]~~), a transcoding channel (~~TC[i]~~) allowing an input compressed data signal (~~I_{CS[i]}~~) encoded at an input bit rate (~~R_{in[i]}~~) to be converted into an output compressed data signal (~~O_{CS[i]}~~) encoded at an output bit rate wherein a regulation process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to obtain the output bit rate (~~R_{out[i]}~~), said method of controlling comprising :
 - a step of computing an indicator of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoding channels, said indicator being computed from the input compressed data signal independent of the regulation process (~~I_{CS[i]}~~), and
 - a step of allocating the output bit rate (~~R_{out[i]}~~) to the transcoding channel (~~TC[i]~~) from a total output bit rate (~~R_{tot}~~), its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoding channels.
2. (Original) A method of controlling a set of transcoding channels as claimed in claim 1, wherein the indicator is computed from an average, over a set of encoded pictures, of a function of an average quantization scale over a picture and a number of bits used to encode the same picture.
3. (Original) A method of controlling a set of transcoding channels as claimed in claim 2, wherein the indicator is computed from a weighted average of a set of the averages calculated over the set of encoded pictures.
4. (Currently Amended) A controller (~~CONT~~) for controlling a set of transcoders (~~TC[1] to TC[n]~~), a transcoder (~~TC[i]~~) allowing an input compressed data signal (~~I_{CS[i]}~~) encoded at an input bit rate (~~R_{in[i]}~~) to be converted into an output compressed data signal (~~O_{CS[i]}~~) encoded at an output bit rate wherein a regulation

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process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to obtain the output bit rate ($R_{out[i]}$), said controller comprising :

means for computing a processor configured to determine an indicator of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoders, said indicator being computed from the input compressed data signal independent of the regulation process ($ICS[i]$), and

means for allocating allocate the output bit rate ($R_{out[i]}$) to the transcoder ($TC[i]$) from a total output bit rate (R_{tot}), its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoders.

5. (Currently Amended) A data multiplexing system comprising :

a set of transcoders ($TC[1]$ to $TC[n]$) for converting input compressed data signals ($ICS[1]$ to $ICS[n]$) encoded at an input bit rate ($R_{in[1]}$ to $R_{in[n]}$) into output compressed data signals ($OCS[1]$ to $OCS[n]$) encoded at an output bit rate, wherein a regulation process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to obtain the output bit rate ($R_{out[1]} to R_{out[n]}$),

a controller ($CONT$) for controlling the set of transcoders and comprising : means for computing an indicator of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoders, said indicator being computed from the input compressed data signal independent of the regulation process ($ICS[i]$),

means for allocating the output bit rate ($R_{out[i]}$) to the transcoder ($TC[i]$) from a total output bit rate (R_{tot}), its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoders, and

a multiplexer (MUX) for providing a multiplexed data signal (MS) at the total output bit rate (R_{tot}) by multiplexing of the output compressed data signals ($OCS[1]$ to $OCS[n]$).

6. (Original) A computer program product for a controller ($CONT$) that comprises a set of instructions, which, when loaded into the controller, causes the controller to carry out the method of controlling as claimed in claims 1 to 3.